the latest
ISSUE

volume four
issue seven

FREE

mid-november
ninety-two

Veterans Anxiously Await Full Acceptance by the Military

See story on page 5

Brian Ashby

SACRAMENTO'S NEWS MAGAZINE FOR THE GAY COMMUNITY AND ITS FRIENDS

Do Bisexuals Belong in the Gay Rights Movement?

See story on page 4

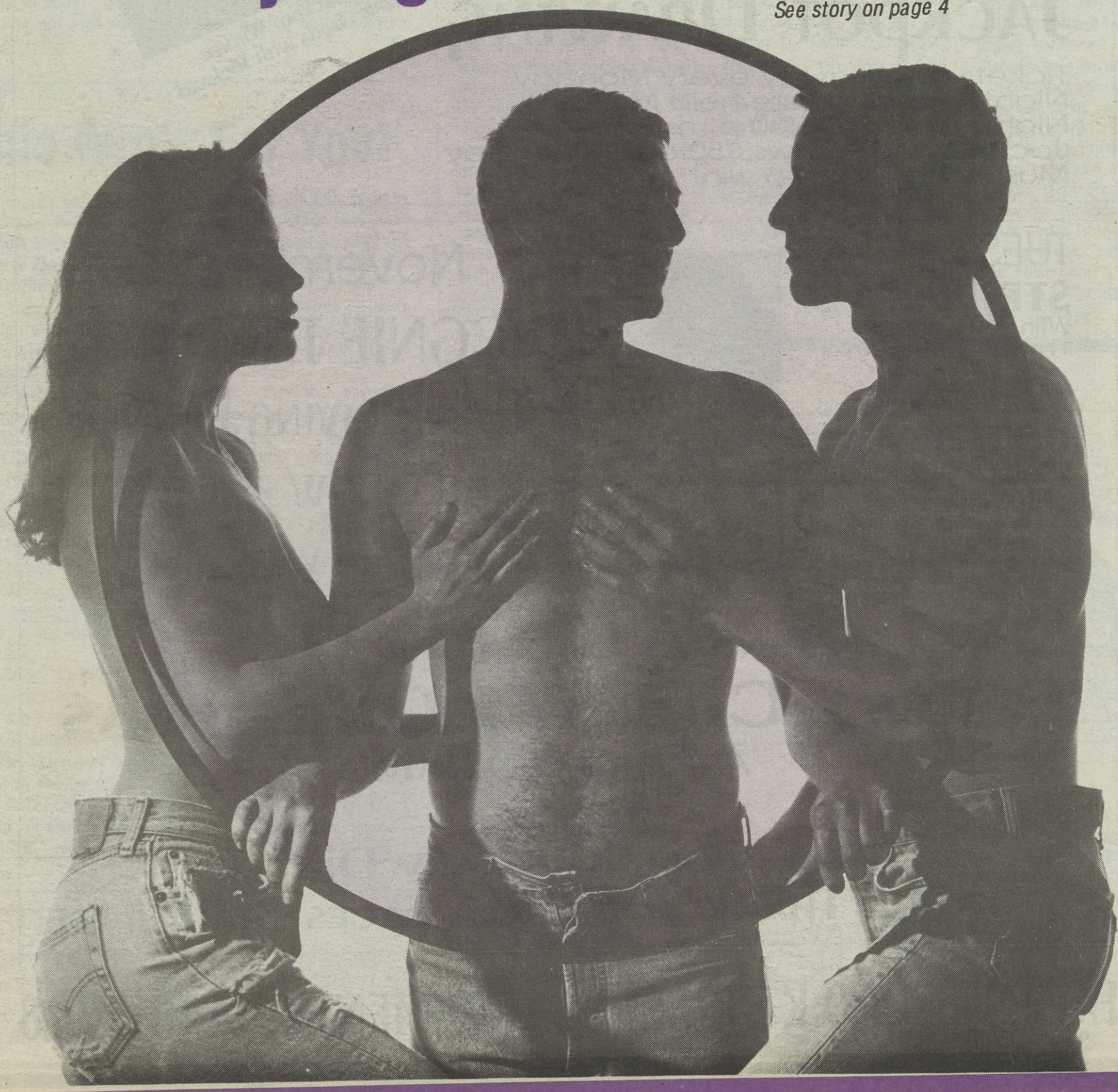

Photo by Brian Ashby

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!!! I MUST SAY!

Savor the Victory

Let's savor this moment of victory for those of us who have worked to bring about change in the community. In the past month we have elected a president who includes gays and lesbians in his agenda and we have elected two women to the senate who have vowed to represent our interests. We have seen the historic elections of the first African American woman and the first Native American to the United States Senate.

Gays and lesbians in Oregon defeated a measure that would have stripped them of their dignity and their rights. In California we now have state civil rights legislation to protect our right to employment.

Locally, domestic partners can register their relationships, a hopeful sign that one day our relationships will be legally recognized.

We have won some major battles in our quest to change the world. Savor the taste of victory and draw from it the strength to continue to fight. And one day we will hopefully find that we have one not just won a series of battles, but the entire war.

This Win's For You!

Both the River City Democratic Club (RCDC) and the Capital Political Action Committee (CAPPAC) took some bold steps during the political campaigns this year, and both deserve the gay community's applause for their actions.

RCDC made headlines by organizing a 45 member force of volunteer campaign workers who completed hundreds of hours of campaign work for a long list of Democratic candidates.

RCDC's workers walked precincts, staffed phonebanks, stuffed envelopes and designed literature for candidates.

"Their success was remarkable!" Suzanne Freeman, Sacramento area director of the Clinton-Gore campaign, has called RCDC "the premiereDemocratic club in the county."

In an interview with the Sacramento Bee, one of Congressman Vic Fazio's campaign managers said, "They have actually been among the more active volunteers."

CAPPAC astonished the thousands of people who read the Sacramento Bee, by running a large display ad for three days that proclaimed "Our Fight is For You!" The eye-catching ad began by telling readers that CAPPAC was "formed to promote the civil rights of lesbian and gay people." Then, the ad presented a list of Democratic candidates endorsed by the organization.

In addition, CAPPAC gave thousands of lesbian and gay dollars to candidates who actively fight for the rights of all people. CAPPAC also arranged a meeting with Congressman Bob Matsui which led to the beginning of communication with Jimmie Yee, the new city councilmember who has had no prior contact with the gay community.

Both RCDC and CAPPAC perform an absolutely essential service for all the lesbians and gay men in Sacramento. The latest ISSUE commends the members for their untiring dedication.

LETTERS!

The latest ISSUE welcomes letters on any subject. Be sure to include your name and phone number for verification. We will not print your name if you wish to remain anonymous.

Why Were Men Excluded?

Dear Editor,

Am I missing something in the letter from Rosemary Metrailer (mid-October ISSUE), concerning SACWN's refusal to allow men to view the film "Gay Youth"?

Because of the rampant homophobia, discrimination and fear in society, many men could also lose their jobs and careers in the education field if their homosexuality were discovered.

Ms. Metrailer implies that the only caring gay professionals in the education system are women.

While Ms. Metrailer does make a strong case for the exclusion of youth, she never offers an excuse for the refusal to admit someone based solely on the person's gender. If "Gay Youth" has such an important message and the film maker's and SACWN's goal is to get "Gay Youth" in as many high schools as possible, it seems that, for the greater good of the community, the members could have been more receptive to sharing the film with men too.

SACWN has brought many speakers to Sacramento that I personally would have liked to hear, but because of the organization's sexist, exclusionary and discriminatory policies I have been unable to attend. I would be interested in knowing how many of SACWN's members would not feel the sting of discrimination if someone held an event advertised exclusively for men.

I think that there would be less homophobia, discrimination and fear if we worked together to educate the youth and got rid of our own discrimination and fear.

Sincerely,
Hal Griffiths

Cutting the Budget & PWAs

Dear Editor,

Recently it became evident the cuts made by the Governor affected something like 12% of the county in-home support services for the disabled.

It gets worse when the county asks each person disabled by AIDS to re-apply for Medi-cal and pay a share of cost averaging $32 a month. Why should they re-apply when they were already receiving Medi-cal!

Any fool would realize these individuals have already met the criteria for eligibility but yet the over burdened county officials seem to want to duplicate the screening process all over again.

On the federal level, in regard to social security, the disabled face a share of cost for Medi-care averaging $32. Over all, $64 for health care benefits to be faced by the terminally ill or disabled ARC or AIDS victims.

While I realize California is in sad shape, why did Governor Wilson decide to attack the poor, the sick and the elderly to repair the disaster created by inept idiots in political power? Sacramento are you listening?

David Andrews

Discrimination?

Dear Editor,

Gay people who discriminate are truly scum of the earth.

A lot of gays can't accept the fact that love really exists when you choose a partner who isn't your same race.

I am in love with a person, not a color and not just a sex object.

I am perfectly happy and in love in my inter-racial relationship. Gays who discriminate against others because of race are the "problem."

Anonymous

Republican Gays Sell Out Big Time

Dear Editor,

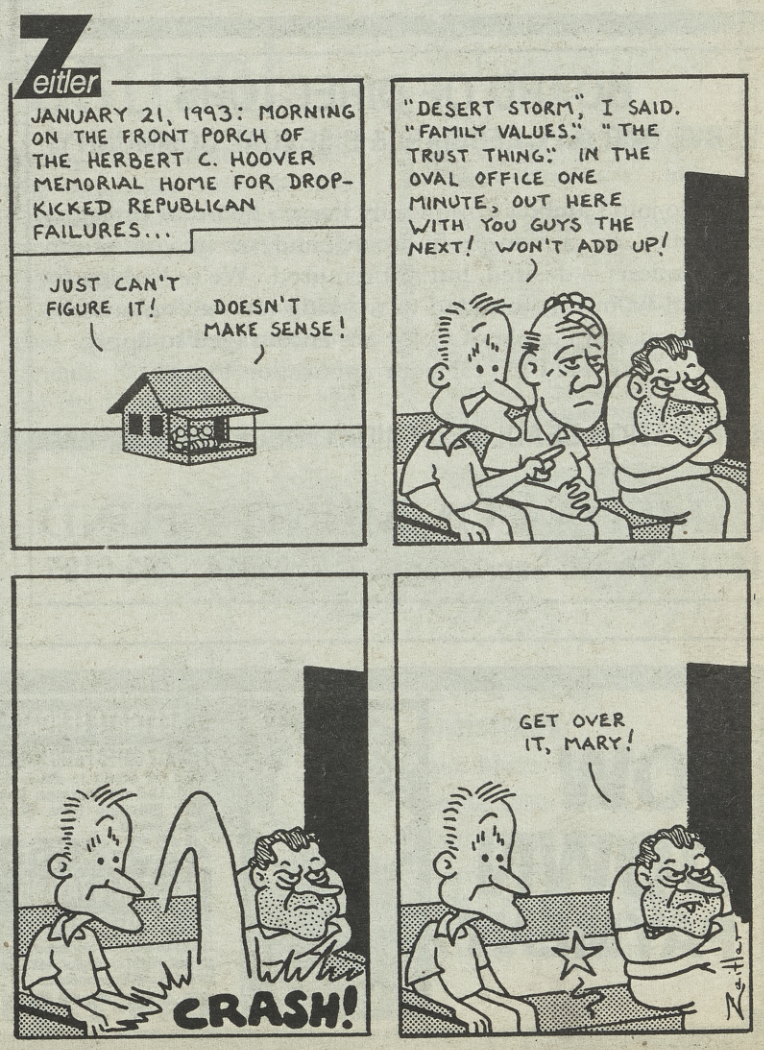
How can any gay or lesbian person be proud to say they're Republican? These gays and lesbians in the Log Cabin Clubs must be really suffering, since the Republican party had their hate fest during the Republican convention.

The only reason for being a part of that party is that people "think" you are rich and "money minded."

Isn't it time to come back to the Democratic party that supports prosperity and also cares about human rights?

Wake up, you're working for Hitler and you can't see past the dollar signs.

Judy Quintana


Zeitler
JANUARY 21, 1993: MORNING ON THE FRONT PORCH OF THE HERBERT C. HOOVER MEMORIAL HOME FOR DROP-KICKED REPUBLICAN FAILURES...
JUST CAN'T FIGURE IT!
DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!
"DESERT STORM", I SAID. "FAMILY VALUES." "THE TRUST THING." IN THE OVAL OFFICE ONE MINUTE, OUT HERE WITH YOU GUYS THE NEXT! WON'T ADD UP!
CRASH!
GET OVER IT, MARY!

Bisexuals Come Out and Ask for Inclusion

by **Michael Gorman**

He spoke of being afraid to reveal his sexuality to friends for fear of rejection. When he finally did, many of them told him that it was a stage he was going through which he would eventually overcome.

Others became angry and told him that he would be a negative influence in the community. Some simply began avoiding him.

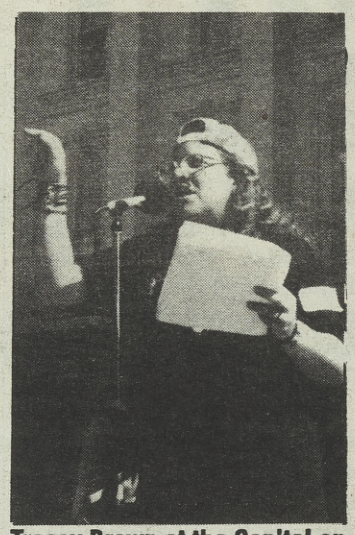
In a lonely search for a place to belong, he encountered group after group that felt uncomfortable even with the word that labeled his sexual orientation. He endured dirty looks and snide comments when he would show up with a partner.

This would seem a classic picture of a gay man facing the homophobia of the straight community, but it is not.

Although Bill Albertson, co-founder of the Sacramento Area Bisexual Network, has indeed faced homophobia when out with a boyfriend, he claims the greater pain has come from confronting biphobia in the gay and lesbian community. "I can't count the number of times gays and lesbians have told me that I'm in a stage, that I'm just not all the way out yet. I'm out. I'm out and proud as a bisexual."

After talking with many bisexual friends who have experienced similar ignorance about their innate sexuality, Bill began searching for a way to build some sense of community among bisexuals. At the same time, activist Tracey Brown was reacting to a lecture she had heard at California State University, Sacramento by Lonnie Kaahumann, co-author of the book Bi Any Other Name. Inspired by Kaahumann's bisexual pride, Brown began circulating flyers for a Sacramento group modelled after the Bay Area Bisexual Network.

Bill Albertson was the first person to respond to the flyers. Together with another friend Pam, they began planning the Sacramento Bisexual Network. The group now meets at the New Helvetia coffee shop at 6 p.m. on the first and third Sundays of each month.



Tracey Brown at the Capitol on National Coming Out Day.

Trying to characterize the bisexual community is not an easy task. What the bisexuals interviewed for this story seemed to have in common was an intense commitment to individualism and a distrust of labels. Albertson said, "I think I can speak for the ambidextrous, Indian-Chicano-Afro-Caucasian, 17 college unit bearing, 20 hour a week working, leather-wearing, male bisexuals into SM who are Army veterans. The rest you'll just have to ask their opinions. I haven't walked in their shoes."

Mike DeHart, a staff member at the Lambda Community Center, also felt uncomfortable speaking for other bisexuals, chuckling at a writer's difficulty characterizing the bisexual community: "We do tend to value our diversity." He claims that with a few exceptions, the gays and lesbians he works with have been very accepting of his sexuality.

Tracey Brown claims that, although most bisexuals have experienced some measure of misunderstanding and discrimination within the gay community, most who are out of the closet are very "queer identified."

In the past, bisexuality has often been viewed as an intermediary step between the closet and being out as a homosexual. Others believed that members of both ends of the sexuality spectrum sometimes indulge in bisexuality as

> "Fine. Tell them to come and tell us what they want."
>
> Marghe Covino

a kind of experiment or titillating adventure, but that they return eventually to their "natural" sexuality. A growing number of researchers and psychologists, however, have come to believe that bisexuality is a distinct orientation in and of itself.

In the Kinsey Report on Male Sexuality, sexual orientation is described as existing on a spectrum, with heterosexuality on one end, homosexuality on the other, and varying degrees of bisexuality along the line between. It is consistent with that research that many bisexuals express a preference for one sex or the other, although they insist

Continued on page 8

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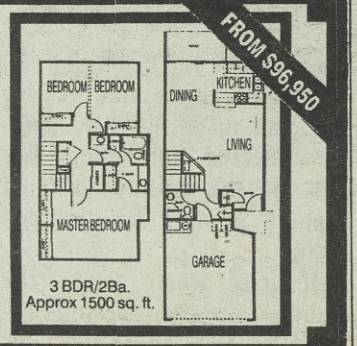

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GAY AND LESBIAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

AROUND TOWN

Tribute to Veterans Brings Good News

by **Kate Moore**

With hope for the future, gays and lesbians gathered at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial to honor veterans who have been shunned by the U.S. Military.

Since the election of President-elect Bill Clinton, the outlook for lesbian and gay members of the military has changed dramatically. "As we speak, members of the Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Veteran's Association are meeting with members of the Clinton team and are writing the document that will rescind the ban on gays in the military," said SSG. Miriam Ben-Shalom, "they have been assured that there will be an executive order overturning the law excluding gays."

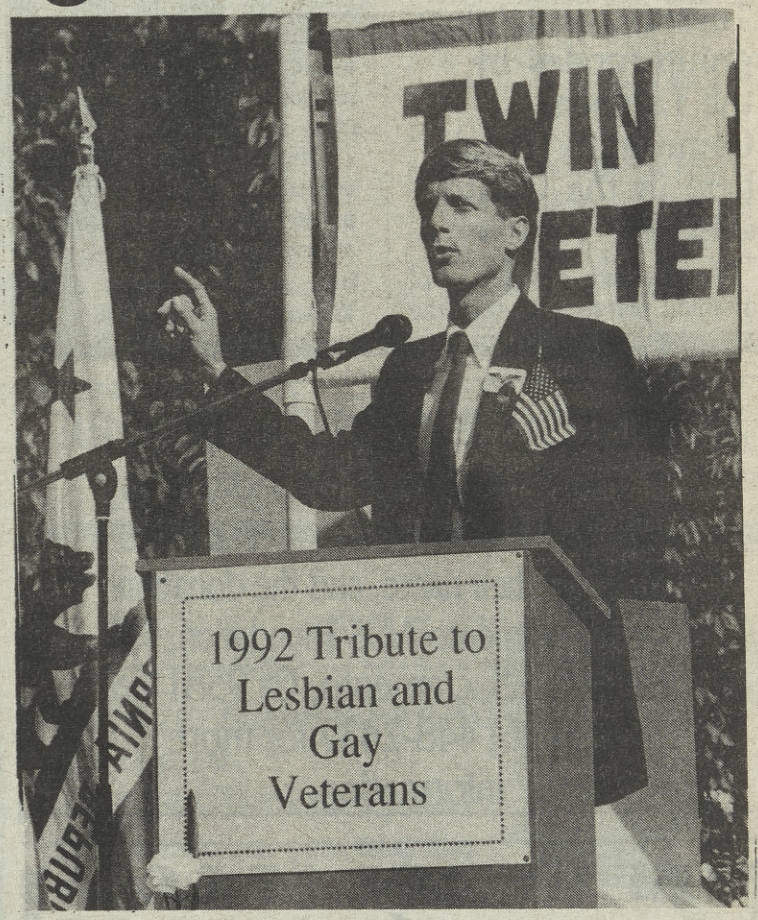
Keith Meinhold who was active in the Navy for 12 years before "coming out" on national television in May, had received news just the day before the Tribute that he would be reinstated. "I really didn't expect it," he said, "I just hope that I will be welcome when I get to the gate of Moffet Field."

He was to report to the naval base on Nov. 9, but was turned away at the gate, to return the next day to his rightful reinstatement.

The Nov. 7 Tribute to Lesbian and Gay Veterans was not only a political call to action, but also a memorial to lost comrades.

"Run your hand along the wall" said Meinhold, "and see if you can tell which ones were gay."

Co-founder of the sponsoring Twin Spirits Veterans group, Lt. Col, USAF (Ret) David Eckert, died two weeks prior to the Tribute and was remembered for his courage and dedication to the cause. "I know wherever David is now, he's happy," said Ben-Shalom.



Brian Ashby

Keith Meinhold was reinstated to U.S. Navy even after coming out as a gay man on national television.

Registration Begins for

Domestic Partners

by **Mike Kelly**

Now that same-sex couples in Sacramento may legally document and safeguard their commitment to each other, the City Clerk's office will be ready to notarize their forms as early as 8 a.m. this Monday, Nov. 16.

The group of domestic partners will start to meet at 7 a.m. on the front steps of City Hall.

Registration will require photo ID for each applicant and payment of a nominal fee, which covers the cost of the notary, plus the official certificate the couple leaves with, as well as the information explaining exactly what benefits the registration does and does not provide them.

An open party will celebrate all the newly registered couples.

Only persons 18 years or older may register, cannot already be family-related by blood, must share common basic living expenses, but may have different dwellings.

Registrants are reminded that while the new ordinance does give their relationship official recognition in lease agreements, hospital visitations, and unpaid leave from work, it does not ensure mutual power of attorney, extended family health benefits, or automatic rights of inheritance. It is not official marriage.

The media should be at City Hall for the 8 a.m. onslaught to photograph the first historic registrations. Missing work on Monday morning will take on a new dimension for many who plan to be among the first hundred to register their partnerships. Significant numbers of interested couples are expected to get "D.P.d" throughout the day on Monday and throughout the first week.

An open party, the evening of Nov. 16, will celebrate all the newly registered couples -- gay, straight, seniors, disabled, etc, from 6 - 9 p.m. at

Continued on page 24

Thousands Donated by 1992

Rainbow Festival

More than $16,500 was donated to local charities in October, thanks to the efforts of Faces staff and volunteers who organized the 1992 Rainbow Festival.

Mayor Anne Rudin was on hand to accept the check for passing the domestic partnership ordinance and to acknowledge her incredible support for the lesbian/gay community of Sacramento.

Other charities benefitting from the donation were the Lambda Community Center, and the Lambda Players.

Mayor Anne Rudin.

pe House as she has the
t four years. Rudin was
en several standing ovations
ing the check presentation
ceremony for her success in

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Keeping a Sharp Eye on the Fundamentatlists

by **Steve Bistransky**

The alarm bell has been sounded by Project Tocsin, a watchdog group funded by the Lambda Community Fund here in the Capitol City.

Tocsin (an archaic word meaning alarm) monitors the movements of the "theocrats." Theocrats is the term used by Jerry Sloan and Marghe Covino, co-chairpersons of the group, to describe those individuals and groups that would unite a twisted form of religion and bigotry with local, state, and federal government.

These groups have succeeded in gaining impressive power gradually by targeting all levels of government. They have run little-known or unknown candidates for local offices with tremendous financial backing, promoting anti-gay ballot initiatives and filing legal challenges to gay rights legislation.

Though Tocsin is not a gay/lesbian organization, it meets the mission statement of the Lambda Community Fund which includes providing information services to the local gay community.

The activities that Tocsin monitors include the drive by these groups to institute and legalize discrimination against gays and lesbians and in some cases to criminalize their very existence.

Sloan and Covino have been spending countless hours gathering statistics on the local covert activities of these dangerous folk. Howard Amanson, Jr., the Home Savings heir, Edward Atsinger, and Roland Hinz have been bankrolling the candidacies of many political candidates whose opinions match their own: active members of the ultra-active theocratic right.

According to Jerry Sloan, these individuals and "James Dobson of the Capital Resource Institute are busy organizing community impact committees within local churches aimed at organizing fanatics and unwitting accomplices into foot soldiers for an eventual usurpation of democracy and its replacement with their particular brand of theocracy." Marghe Covino adds, "They are not Christians. Their brand of hate and intolerance is strictly anti-Christ."

Covino states that definitive research has uncovered the fact that these fundamentalists have succeeded in seizing control of the Republican Party in Kansas and are making tremendous inroads to control the same party in Iowa, Oregon and Colorado. They are also very active here in California.

According to Sloan, these extremists are composed of a motley group of neo-Nazis, former KKK members, White Aryans, John Birchers, and "those honest folk they have managed to dupe."

Tocsin networks with groups like itself throughout the Nation: Americans for the Separation of Church and State and People for the American Way. The Project's research has aided in the presentation of major journalistic articles in the Los Angeles Times and in The Advocate. They and similar groups have acted as consultants to political candidates favoring separation of church and state, Planned Parenthood and the American Civil LIberties Union.

"Make no mistake about it," Marghe Covino concludes in her discussion of the theocrats. "This is a well-organized power grab...It has nothing to do with religion or ethics as we in the West recognize them. It is very, very dangerous to all Americans, not just the gay and lesbian community."

Remember their Fighting Spriit

To make a donation to the Sacramento AIDS Foundation in memory of a loved one, mail their name, and the donation to the Sacramento AIDS Foundation, 920 20th Street, Sacramento, Ca 95814 or Call (916) 448-2437 for more information.

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Obituaries

David K. Eckert

David K. Eckert, Lt. Col. USAF (Ret), passed from this life and into his next, Oct. 25, 1992 after a long battle with non-Hodgekins lymphona.

David was a licensed Pastor with the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches and was currently serving as interim pastor of Delta Harvest M.C.C. of Stockton.

He was born in Texas City, Texas Jan. 4, 1945 to Herman and Helen Eckert. He attended Austin College, graduating in 1967 with a BA in classical languages. He then attended Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary from 1967 to 1969 with the intent of entering the ministry, but joined the Air Force instead, earning his pilots wings by Nov. 1970 then retired honorably in 1989.

He had a distinguished military career, receiving the Meritorious Service Medal the Air Force Commendation Medal, an Outstanding Unit Award, the National Defense Medal and expert ribbons in the .38 caliber revolver and M-16.

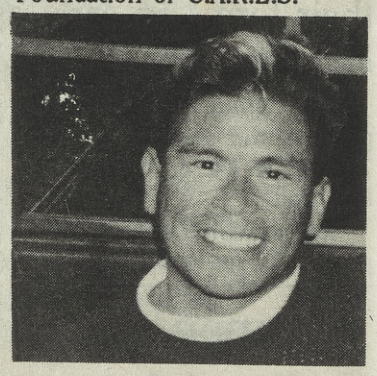
He continued his education at San Francisco Presbyterian Theological Seminary and in May of 1991, graduated with a Master of Divinity in Theology.

David was the Founder and co-chair of the Twin Spirits Gay and Lesbian Veterans of Sacramento and in May of this year David testified to the Congressional Committee on Veterans Affairs in Washington D.C. on behalf of lesbian and gay veterans.

He also served as associate editor of Mom Guess What newspaper and was a formidable voice on local, state and national gay issues.

He is survived by his spouse in Holy Union, William W. Weaver of Sacramento, daughters Elisa, Angela and his former wife and best friend Beverly J. Eckert of Orangevale.

Memorial donations can be given to the Delta Harvest M.C.C., Twin Spirits Veteran Association, Sacramento AIDS Foundation or C.A.R.E.S.



Joseph T. Martinez

Joseph Martinez, born Sept. 7, 1952, passed away on Oct. 23, 1992 in his home in Sacramento after a three year battle with AIDS.

Memorial services were held in San Jose where Joseph spent most of his life. He is survived by his loving partner of almost 10 years, Steve Wilken, his family which includes his mother Julie, sisters and brothers; Diana, Joanne, Jacqueline, Danny, and Steven Martinez.

Those who knew Joseph knew that he always lived life to its fullest. He was a lover of life, music, dancing and parties. He will be deeply missed.

Every Wednesday Tune-in to Out Radio

by **Michael Gorman**

"It's 10 O'clock, and this is 88.7 KCBL FM Sacramento, and it's time for 'Out Radio' with Michael Moore." With those words, spoken in a smooth baritone voice three weeks ago on Sacramento's cable access radio station, something new entered the Sacramento radio market: Out Radio, an hour program targeting the gay and lesbian community.

Out Radio is the brainstorm of disc jockey Michael Moore, who received his training at the National School of Broadcasting.

He began meetings to plan the program last summer and managed to convince several music outlets to donate tapes and cd's, and enlisted NSB classmate Miki Tucker to co-host the show.

News is being provided by the freelance partnership of Ashby and Gorman.

The show's format includes music by gay and lesbian artists, news, commentary, and public service announcements from the gay and lesbian community.

Moore also does a regular feature called "Gay History," which each week highlights some small piece of lesbian and gay history and culture.

Out Radio airs on Wednesday evenings from 10 p.m. to 11 p.m.

KCBL FM is a community access radio station operated by Access Sacramento, which also runs television stations 17 and 18 on cable TV. As with channels 17 and 18, shows on KCBN are produced by volunteers with the assistance of the paid staff of Access Sacramento.

Asked about his motivation for starting Out Radio, Moore said, "It's something that we didn't have in Sacramento, and it's something we needed. I love radio. It just made sense. I could do something I love while contributing to the gay and lesbian community at the same time."

He calls Out Radio "a show for the gay community and the homosexually impaired." Moore made it clear that the radio show is just the beginning. He hopes to expand in the near future to a television show, and eventually to an entire production company for gay and lesbian radio and television.

Response from the staff at Access Sacramento has been very positive. Despite recent controversies over two films on cable access which included a rape scene and homoeroticism and which created a storm of protest from conservative viewers, the company remains committed to diversity in programming.

Karen Moody, director of personnel and operations at Access Sacramento expressed excitement about the gay community's involvement in cable radio and television. She subscribes to many local newspapers and magazines, including *the latest ISSUE*, in order to keep apprised of the community's reactions to her company's work.

Cable radio is transmitted over channel 17 when no shows are airing. It may also be directed to a radio through a hookup to the cable box.

Both Moody and Moore encourage gays and lesbians to tune in and share input with the program and the station. Readers may contact Out Radio at P.O. Box 484, Fair Oaks, 95628. Access Cable can be contacted at 456-8600. Press releases my be sent to Ashby and Gorman, 2620 C Street, Suite 7, Sacramento, 95816.

Brian Ashby

Miki Tucker and Michael Moore of Out Radio.

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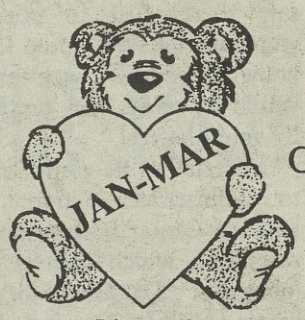

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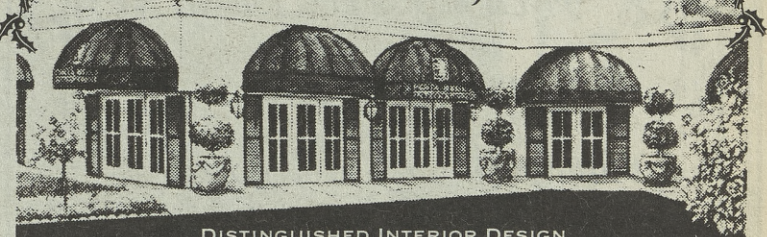

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SAF's New Leader Promotes AIDS Awareness

by **Stacy Selmants**

After six months as the new Executive Director of an organization called "troubled" by some and "dysfunctional" by at least one ex-employee, Charles McNeill of the Sacramento AIDS Foundation is trying to bring both a sense of professionalism and some new direction to an organization developed over a decade ago by a small group of dedicated volunteers.

While an admitted novice in the specialized, crisis-oriented field of AIDS service delivery, McNeill brings to the job -- managing 30 staff members and over 300 volunteers -- decades of experience in administering non-profit organizations, notably 21 years with the American Heart Association, including a stint as its Executive Director.

When asked what prompted the occupational shift from a more "mainstream" organization to the AIDS Foundation, McNeill explained. "It's simple. The Heart Association didn't provide any direct service. And I'm really drawn to the kind of people who are involved in direct service. They have very special qualities. There is a fullness of commitment here."

McNeil then illustrated the difference by comparing the Heart Association to the old-style IBM, while the Foundation is "more like a 10 year old business in Silicon Valley."

"And besides, " he added with a grin, "Here, it's just a lot more fun."

McNeill survived his first test this summer, during the prolonged state budget negotiations, when "there was a new rumor every week," about possible cuts in state and county funding for AIDS services, including home health care and AIDS/HIV education and prevention efforts.

The AIDS Foundation's case management budget was not slashed despite dire predictions, and the Foundation received its full allocation of $210,000. The education and prevention monies, however, were cut from the budget, in anticipation of cuts from the county. $115,000 in HIV education/prevention grant money has been reinstated, and now local service providers and county health department staff are in the tug-of-war process of allocating those funds.

When asked about the see-saw aspect of developing a budget under those conditions, McNeill responded with equanimity,

Continued on page 24

BISEXUALS

continued from page 4

that their attraction to both to whatever degree, is inherent. Others seem to fall in the center of the Kinsey scale, expressing an equal attraction to both sexes.

Some gay activists worry that their message that sexuality is a matter of birth rather than choice will be compromised by the bisexual's ability to chose a partner of either sex. Others express a distrust of bisexuals, claiming that when times get rough, bisexuals can blend in more easily to the hetersexual society. "I wonder where their loyalties are," said one lesbian who asked not to be identified. Albertson responds that "closets are not limited to bisexuals."

Across the country, bisexuals, many of whom have worked for years in the struggle for gay and lesbian rights, are beginning to come out and ask that they be included in the names and agendas of the organizations.

Here in Sacramento, a number of bisexuals have been critical of the Lambda Center for not including the word bisexual on its sign. That attitude, according to Brown, keeps many bisexuals from coming out. Many simply allow others to assume they are gay.

Marghe Covino, a member of the Lambda Center Board of Directors, expressed frustration with the lack of communication between the bisexual and gay communities.

She said that Tracey Brown's speech (which was critical of the Lambda Center) at the National Coming Out Day at the capitol building marked the first time she had ever seen Brown.

"The thing that makes me nuts is that no one has been here to ask us anything. We're working on diversity with no clear communication about what they want. A staff member told me one member of the bisexual community said he wanted to be a part. Fine. Tell them to come and tell us what they want. You can't have a board action for a group you haven't seen and have no idea what they want. That would be presumptuous, and a little paternalistic."

Board members Will Bennett and Rob Thorbin expressed a similar openness to inclusion, but said that no representative of the bisexual community had attended a board meeting to address the issues.

Brown responded that the Lambda Center should be meeting the needs of the bisexual community in order to make them feel comfortable enough to approach the board. "Many of us don't feel safe there. Just to put the word on the sign would let us know that we are welcome. It would be more than symbolic. It would be real."

In restating its commitment to affirmative action, the Lambda Center board passed a resolution which includes the following: "The Board of Directors further resolves that Lambda Community Fund establish the Diversity and Awareness Project . . . The goal of the Diversity and Awareness Project shall be to include and represent all gay, lesbian, and bisexual people in the programs of the Lambda Community Fund."

Some leaders have expressed a reluctance to use the word "bisexual," because it seems to them to have the same sexual and clinical connotations as the word "homosexual," which has been largely abandoned for the more inclusive terms "gay" and "lesbian." To that, Albertson replied, "It isn't their place to tell us what we should call ourselves."

Despite the controversies surrounding the increased visibility of bisexuals in Sacramento, leaders like Tracey Brown see hope for resolution and inclusion.

"I've had to confront a hell of a lot just to make my place in the community. I think that the walls are beginning to break down. I know that it's important for each community to find its own voice, but in the long run it needs to be an integrated queer community if we're ever going to get our rights. I can't see gays and lesbians getting their rights if bi's and TV's and transsexuals don't also get theirs."

Unlike gays and lesbians, bisexuals often struggle without an organized supportive community. They sometimes feel trapped between cultures. Many are hoping that the gay community, which has been a partial home to them, will live up to its claim to value diversity and make a place for bisexuals, so that the wheel does not have to be reinvented once again. Only time will tell.

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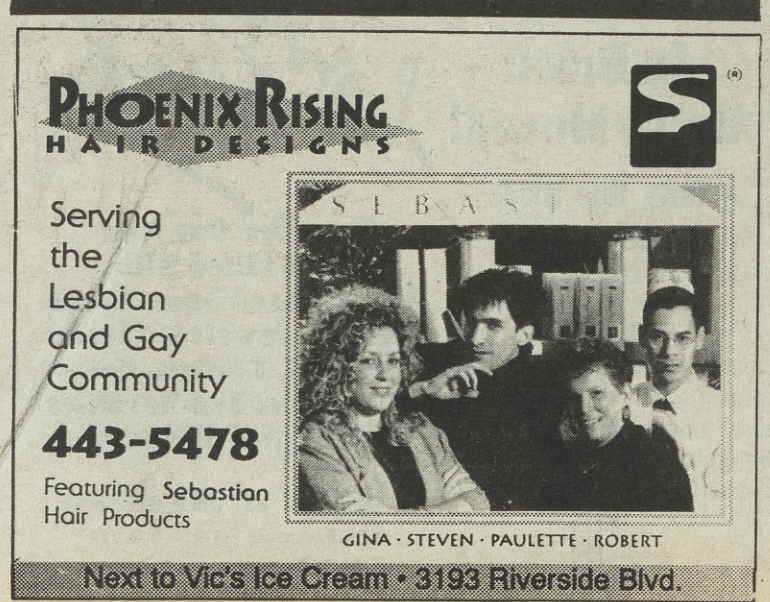
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Family Stuctures in School Books

At its October meeting, the California Board of Education reviewed the latest draft of a new Health Education Framework. For the next decade, the framework will serve as the foundation for health education throughout the state.

In response to pressure from hate groups, the Board last month ordered a revision of the framework's unprecedented references to homosexuality.

The "Family Living" section of the framework included households headed by "parents of the same sex" on a list of contemporary family structures.

Several Board members resented the phrase, fearing it would "promote a new definition of the family" and might violate the Education code (a state law requires that all course materials teach "honor and respect for monogamous, heterosexual marriage").

As a result, the phrase "parents of the same sex" was changed to "one parent and that parent's partner" and included it on a list of "other living arrangements."

The Board will discuss the framework again in November, although a final adoption is not expected until December.

To urge the Department of Education to take a strong stand on the issue of lesbian and gay families, contact Bill Honig, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Department of Education, P.O. Box 944272, Sacramento, CA 94244-2720. Telephone 916-657-5478, fax 916-657-5101.

GLAAD Update

1% For AIDS

CARES, the Lambda Community Center, the Sacramento AIDS Foundation and the Women's Civic Improvement Club are sponsoring the first annual 1% for AIDS on World AIDS Day, Dec. 1.

The agencies are asking area business men and women to help commemorate the day by donating 1% of their profits from Dec. 1, or $250 whichever is greater.

Participating businesses will display a "1% for AIDS" sticker in their windows, and a poster describing the event and how it works.

All of the proceeds from the event will go to either the care of people with HIV disease and AIDS, or for education to stop the spread of the virus.

Got A Flat-Bed?

Grand Duke J.P. producing a float for the Sacamento Santa Parade Nov. 28 but is in need of a flat-bed truck.

"I know that if I enter this parade, we can win the $700 prize money," said J.P., "we will be donating it to local families for Christmas."

Anyone who has access to a flat-bed truck, 16 to 24 foot in length is asked to call Grand Duke J.P. at 488-5975.

Prisoners Strike

More than 100 HIV positive prisoners at the California Medical Facility prison have begun a medication strike, protesting what they say is discriminatory treatment and inadequate medical care.

The striking prisoners have demanded more AIDS-experienced medical staff, timely treatment, access to clinical drug trails, and immediate release for those in the late stages of AIDS.

Southern Voice

Triangle Meaning

A local group is organizing to plan a memorial dedicated to the 250,000 gays and lesbians who were imprisoned and executed during the holocaust.

The meetings are held at 7 p.m. on Mondays at the Lambda Center.

Call 442-0886 or contact the Lambda Center at 442-0185 for further information.

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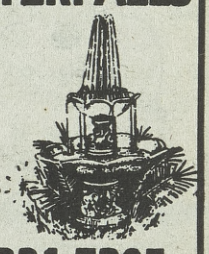

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Part 3 in the Aging Series

Living the Lesbian/Gay Single Life

by **Lora Connolly**

"I just flipped when I met Dionne," Ardelle remembers with a broad smile. "I discovered a depth of emotions I'd never felt before." Ardelle, now 70, met Dionne two years ago at a SACWN special interest group for lesbians over age 50.

When Ardelle and her partner of 12 years broke up just around the time she retired, she never really expected another long-term relationship. But she joined SACWN to meet new friends and just hoped to meet someone special.

Lou, a 62 year old recent retiree, is in a situation similar to Ardelle's. Two years ago, her relationship of 15 years ended, leaving her suddenly single again. "I'm seriously toying with renting my house and moving into a condo in the mid-town area," Lou now says. "A house in the suburbs is fine if you're with someone," she contends, but she'd like to be closer to the day and evening activities in the mid-town area.

Since becoming single again, Lou has been going to local gay and lesbian bars. Friends have told her she should go to church instead of bars in search of new friends. But she confides that she sees many of the same gays and lesbians at church as she does in the bars.

While Lou hasn't found many people her age at the bars, she has been pleasantly surprised at how eager younger lesbians are to come over and chat. For the first time in her life, she's making friends with many younger people. "I'm really kind of pleased and surprised," remarked Lou.

La Kish, who is in his mid 60s and still working at the Mercantile, is considering retirement. But his active involvement in the Fairy Godfathers (a group he helped found), the Court, and numerous other gay charities, is likely to keep him as busy in retirement as he is now.

Having contingency plans is particularly important to Lou and La Kish since they both are single and living alone at this stage of their lives. "You know when you live alone, you think, 'Suppose I slipped in the bathroom, and I couldn't get help?' You just have to think of these things and have a plan," La Kish explained. So if he didn't show up for work, a co-worker would telephone him, and if he didn't answer, that friend has a key and would come over to check on him.

Lou also has a plan. She and a group of single friends have agreed to take care of each other if they become sick and need someone to look in on them or even come over to stay with them until they are recovered. Both would rely on their gay and lesbian network of friends for their needed support.

It may not be surprising then that neither Ardelle, Lou or La Kish say they would attend a local senior center. Lou has family members who do go to a senior center, but she wouldn't feel comfortable there.

Attending a senior center never crossed La Kish's mind. Ardelle and her partner live in an upscale trailer park and participate in many of the community activities, but they can't be "out" in that group. So they straddle two worlds: the straight social activities of the trailer park and their chosen inner circle of gay and lesbian friends.

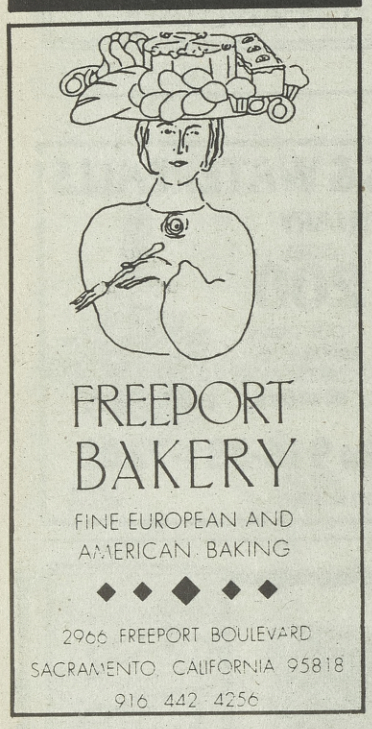
Lou voiced the need for some type of social organization for older gays and lesbians. "A place for us to meet, socialize, get together and do things, would just be great," said Lou enthusiastically. "Lots of people just aren't into the bar scene...and your values and interests change as you get older," Ardelle noted, "...some place where you can share stories with your own age group is important."

Here in Sacramento, SACWN has a special interest group for lesbians over age 50 and one for late blooming lesbians. But there is no social organization focusing exclusively on the needs and interests of older gays and lesbians like those in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego.

Younger gays and lesbians, like their heterosexual counterparts, may imagine the older generation napping in a rocking chair, but not these three!

Research focusing on gay and lesbian aging has also been successful at refuting stereotypes and myths about older gays and lesbians. A recently published study found that the majority of older gays and lesbians scored high on measures of life satisfaction, current health status, and acceptance of their aging process. Nonetheless, when asked what the most serious problems were facing them as older gays and lesbians, the same study found that loneliness, health, and income were the most frequently reported areas of concern.

While these three issues, loneliness, health, and income are likely to be of greatest concern to older heterosexuals as well, discrimination against gays and lesbians in health care, employment, and housing makes struggling with these issues particularly challenging for older gays and lesbians.



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Rights Remain in Oregon - Not in Colorado

by **Miles Kerley**

Oregon's Measure 9, a constitutional amendment that would have declared the gay lifestyle abnormal and perverse in that state, was defeated election day by a narrow margin, while other anti-gay legislation passed in Colorado and Tampa, Florida.

The Oregon Citizens Alliance (OCA) backed the statewide ballot initiative that asked voters to declare homosexuality to be legally "abnormal" and to prohibit laws protecting homosexuals against discrimination. It would have overruled city and county measures guarding against discrimination against gays and lesbians.

Meanwhile, in Colorado, the Colorado for Family Values group sponsored Amendment 2. This amendment to the Colorado Constitution repeals and bans any law or policy that prohibits discrimination against homosexuals or bisexuals. Amendment 2 was passed by the voters of Colorado.

Tampa, Florida voters chose to repeal their local gay-rights ordinance that prohibited discrimination against gays and bisexuals.

Religious right-wing groups like Oregon's OCA, Colorado For Family Values, and California's Traditional Values Coalition have been manifesting themselves in every state.

The Oregon and Colorado initiatives have been a change in strategy on the part of the right-wing church groups. They take to the voters a proposed amendment to the state's constitution instead of mainly concentrating on trying to pass anti-gay laws in the state legislatures.

The reason religious groups focused on Colorado and Oregon is because each had statewide anti-gay-discriminatory laws to lose. The Colorado Initiate, Amendment 2 immediately repeals the governor's executive order protecting state and city ordinances in five localities, including the capitol, Denver.

Washington State -- with its executive order protecting gays state-wide and with five other local ordinances in place -- appears to be the next state slated for amendment propositions. The Washington Citizens Alliance has registered with the state attorney general's office and only needs 150,001 signatures to get its initiative on the ballot.

And according to Oregon Citizen's Alliance organizer, Loretta Neet, "We're disappointed that we didn't win, but we're not going to cease and desist. Our plan is to streamline it and put it out again next year."

Billboards Show Up All Over the State

Pat and Karen Norman pose with thier son Zachary.

by **Ken Locke**

On Oct. 27, Sacramento finally got to see it. The billboard, placed at Broadway and Riverside shows two smiling mothers, one pregnant and the other holding her hand over their unborn baby. The billboard reads: "Another traditional family."

The billboard idea was conceived by GLAAD (The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation). According to Trish McDermott, a spokesperson for the billboard project, GLAAD has received the anticipated hate calls from angry passersby. One caller said that homosexuals are "scumbags." Another warned spitefully, "You will all burn in hell." But despite the negative calls McDermott says, "The response has been overwhelmingly positive. One of the most enthusiastic calls of support came from a man who identified himself as heterosexual."

GLAAD plans to place 22 of the billboards in cities across the nation, including Atlanta, San Francisco, San Jose and Oakland. GLAAD's strategy is to place the billboards in areas

Continued on page 24

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Gay Flag Flys Over Library

Crushing a challenge by fundamentalist bigots, the San Francisco Library Commission voted on Oct. 6 to support the flying of the rainbow flag at the Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Memorial Branch Library. Since 1989, the flag has flown above the library, which houses a substantial portion of the San Francisco Public Library's collection of lesbian, gay and bisexual literature.

Members of TV evangelist Pat Robertson's so-called "Christian Coalition" and other hate groups argued that the "sodomite flag" was offensive and that flying it on public property was another example of "special rights for homosexuals."

Following their defeat at the Library Commission, the homophobes vowed to sue the city for removal of the flag.

GLAAD Update

Molestation by Straights

A child is 100 times more likely to be molested by a heterosexual family member than by a homosexual, a new study shows.

Doctors at Children's Hospital in Denver, Colorado, reviewed every case of suspected child molestation at the hospital from July 1, 1991 to June 30, 1992. Their findings revealed that only one of the 387 cases likely involved a gay perpetrator.

The question of gay molesters has been a hot topic in Colorado, since supporters of that state's recently passed anti-gay rights measure distributed literature claiming that up to half of all child molesters are gay. The measure, Amendment 2, banned any legislation protecting gays and lesbians.

The Washington Blade

You Tell 'Em Elizabeth!

Elizabeth Taylor says the federal government hasn't done enough to promote safe sex, so she's taking her own message to the airwaves.

In public service television commercials, Taylor please emphatically with viewers to "use condoms every time you have sex -- EVERY TIME!"

The ads, sponsored by the American Foundation for AIDS Research, will air on network and cable stations. The campaign also includes print ads, which will appear in major magazines in the coming months.

The Sentinel

Bay Times Sues San Francisco

The San Francisco Bay Times has filed a lawsuit against the city and county of San Francisco, former police chief Richard Hongisto, and three officers, claiming that they violated the paper's constitutional rights when Hongisto ordered 2000 copies of the paper removed from the streets on May 7.

Hongisto, who denied making the order, was fired by SF Mayor Frank Jordan over the flap.

The newspaper in question featured a composite photo, with Hongisto's head on the body of a activist in a police uniform fondling a nightstick.

Southern Voice

Lesbianism is Genetic?

In a study that echoes the findings of a recent look at gay male twins, researchers say that genetics make up at lest fifty percent of individual differences in sexual orientation.

"Sexual preference is often determined at birth rather than a lifestyle choice," said Dr. J. Michael Bailey, a Northwestern University psychologist.

The study, conducted by Bailey and Boston University's Richard C. Pillard, looked at 115 gay or bisexual women, all twins or sisters. The study showed that 1 in 2 identical twins and 1 in 6 fraternal twins were lesbian or bisexual. Out of 32 adoptive sisters of the 115 women, 1 in 16 were lesbian or bisexual.

Southern Voice

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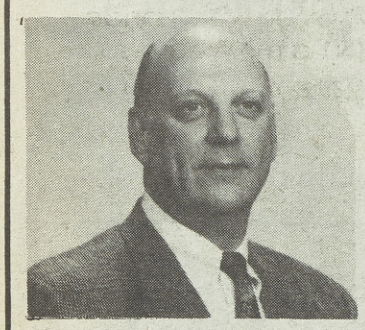
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HIV POSITIVE

Hyperimmune Therapy Shows Promise

by **Arturo Jackson III**

People with HIV willing to participate in Passive Hyperimmune Therapy Phase III clinical trials are urgently needed as both donors and treatment recipients.

In anticipation of Phase III clinical trial approval by the California Food and Drug Branch of the Federal Food and Drug Administration, HemaCare Corporation, a small blood products company based in Southern California, has launched a statewide recruitment campaign to enroll approximately 800 study participants at four research sites in the state.

Passive Hyperimmune Therapy (also known as PHT, passive immunotherapy or PATH), involves the transfer of HIV neutralizing antibodies from the blood of healthy HIV-positive donors to other infected individuals whose health is more rapidly declining.

The HemaCare Corporation has completed Phase I and II clinical trials of the passive hyperimmune treatment involving 219 participants and reported beneficial trial results among study volunteers with 50 or greater T-helper cells.

HemaCare recently received FDA approval to end the placebo control group in the Phase II study. "We were able to document a beneficial clinical response among patients with a 50 to 200 T4 cell count," stated Dr Joshua Levy, medical director at HemaCare.

Significant increases in T4 (T-helper) cell counts and a reduction in the level of p24 antigen levels was also observed in study participants with T4 cell counts greater than 50. "A positive correlation was observed between the level of p24 antibody increase and the maintenance of T4 counts," Levy added.

"Unfortunately, patients with less than 50 T4 cells just did not respond to Passive Hyperimmune Therapy," Levy said. The researcher cautioned that all the study participants were taking anti-retroviral drugs highlighting the need for further PATH trials to accurately determine the therapeutic value of Passive Hyperimmune Therapy against HIV infection.

The donated blood is pooled with approximately 50 different donors to provide a large variety of antibodies. "The greater variety of antibodies increases the likelihood of having an enhanced effect against HIV in any individual patients," said Levy.

The plasma pool is sterilized to destroy any infectious viruses that may be present and then infuse into study participant on a monthly basis. "Not one participant withdrew from the study over the course of a year because of toxic or allergic reactions to donating or being infused with healthy HIV antibodies, emphasized Levy.

HemaCare will be opening PHT Donor Centers in San Francisco and Torrance to augment study sites in West Hollywood and San Diego. Eligible trial participants will receive $25 per donation which can be done twice monthly. Additionally HemaCare will donate $25 to any organization or individual for each referral of an accepted donor who makes at least one donation. "The donation of plasma from health people with HIV and the possibility that may help someone else not so well is the greatest motivator for those who have participated in these trials," said David Sexton, PHT Donor Center manager in San Francisco.

For more information, contact the HemaCare Corporation in San Francisco at (415) 399-0971.

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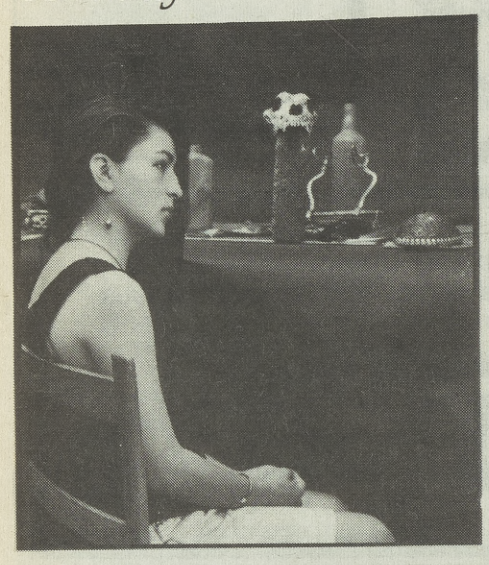
November

13 friday



Photographs by Bill Pugh at Archival Framing, 1729 L Street. For more information call 444-9624. **Nov. 13 - 2.**

Country Western Dance presented by SLCC at the Camellia Room at the Tuesday Club. $5 for members, $8 for non-members. Call 489-9760 for more details.

Creating Change Conference at the Los Angeles Airport Hilton. Organized by the National Gay and Lesbian Rights Task Force. Call (202) 332-6483 for more info. **Nov. 13 - 15**

Todd Palmer brings his talents on clarinet to the UC Davis Kleiber Hall, 8 p.m. For more info call 752-1915.

"Equus," by Peter Schaffer at the Show Below. 22nd and L Streets. $13 general. 8 p.m. Thurs. Fri. & Sat., 2:30 p.m. Sundays. For more info call 446-2787. **Nov. 13 - Dec. 19**

14 saturday

Sacramento Symphony, presents unusual instruments to accompany **The High Sign** at 11 a.m. at the Community Center Theater. Call 264-5181 for tickets

Michael Himovitz Gallery Reception featuring artists Frank Damiano, Katherine Keefer, Michael Hough/Eric Wyss, and Darryl Edwards. 6 - 8 p.m.

16 monday

Domestic Partners Celebration, at Ambrose Heath, 924 J Street, 6 - 9 p.m. $5 donation. For more info call 682-8948.

17 tuesday

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) general meeting at St. Marks Methodist Church. Speaking will be representatives from the Lambda Center.Call 665-1050 for more details.

18 wednesday

SAGA IV Bingo Night at the Townhouse, 1517 21st Street, 7 - 10 p.m. upstairs. $5 for 3 cards, additional cards $1. For more info call Tom at 635-1535.

19 thursday

Bent, a play about the gays in Nazi Germany concentration camps, at the Arena Theater on the UC Davis Campus. Tickets $2 student - $4 general and are available by calling 752-1915. **Nov. 19 - 21**

Causeway Concerto, 24th Street Theater. Tickets $10 adults, $6 students. Call 451-9366 for details.

20 friday

A Cool November Night, an event for women, produced by women to Meet Women! A Carr-Tunes/Jammin' Jo production at the Camillia Room. 8 p.m. - 1 a.m. $5 advance, $6 door. Call 489-5656 for details.

MONDAYS

Survival Alliance Meeting. An organization to remember the 250,000 - 500,000 lesbians and gays executed in the Nazi Holocaust. 7 p.m. at the Lambda Center.

Worried Well support group for HIV Negative people effected by HIV Positive loved ones. 1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30 p.m. For more info call 448-2436.

Men's Coming Out Group at the Lambda Center from 5:30 - 7 p.m. For info call 442-0185

Lesbian & Gay Town Council meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. 448-0422.

TUESDAYS

Being Gay Today, 10 p.m. on cable 18. An hour of lesbian & gay programming from around the country & beyond.

Heart to Heart, a HIV+ support group that is for gay and bi men to talk about common emotions. 6:30 - 8 p.m. 920 20th Street. Call 448-2437 for info.

Sacramento Leather Association monthly meeting at the Wreck Room at 7 p.m. The first Tuesday of each month. For more information call 737-0651. A group for both men and women. All are welcome!

WEDNESDAYS

"Out Radio" a program for lesbians and gays on KCBL Radio, 88.7 on the F.M. dial from 10 p.m. - 11 p.m. every Wednesday night. Playing our music, our comedy and our news. For more information, turn to the article on page 7.

Ladies Night at Faces, 2000 K Street. Country Western Dance at 7:00 p.m. Dance music at 10 p.m.

THURSDAYS

Being Gay Today, 9 p.m. on cable 18. An hour of lesbian & gay programming from around the country & beyond.

Being Alive Living Room HIV+ social group from 2 - 5 p.m. at the Lambda Center. Call 442-0185 for info.

FRIDAYS

Cafe' Lambda gay/lesbian coffee house at the Lambda Center with select coffees, desserts and entertainment from 8 p.m. - midnight. A great alternative to the bars. For info call 442-0185.

Country Western Dance at 7:30 p.m. Activity center of River City MCC, 34th & Broadway. For info call 454-4726.

SATURDAYS

Gay Men's/Lesbian Running Group, all levels welcome. For more info call 387-8275 or 444-2835.

SUNDAYS

River City Metropolitan Community Church; 7 a.m. communion, 9, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. worship service. For more info call 454-4762.

Tea Dance at Faces 3 - 7 p.m., barbecue at 5 p.m., country/western dancing begins at 7 p.m. Great dance music by D.J. Jon.

December

Family Sharing Circle, sponsored by Sacramento Lesbians Creating Change (SLCC) in preparation for the holidays. Call Pam for more info, 687-7282.

21 saturday

Mr. Sacramento Valley Leather Contest, at Joseph's Town and Country, 2062 Auburn Blvd. Tickets $5 for SLA members, $7 general.

"One Enchanted Evening" musical theater cabaret. 8 p.m. at the Metropolitan Community Church Grand Ballroom, 34th and Broadway. Tickets $5 at the door. A benefit for the River City AIDS Center.

Judy Fjell & Crystal Reeves "Songs of Freedom & Joy" at the Palms in Davis. For tickets call 923-BASS

"Ebony in Leather" a contest to find the cover model for Blackfire Magazine. 6:30 p.m. at Cocktails, 201 Ninth Street (at Howard) in San Francisco. For more info call (415) 864-0454.

23 monday

Aequalis performing at UC Davis, 8 p.m. in the Main Theater.

28 saturday

SACWN Presents a Holiday T.G.I.F., 6 - 8 p.m. at the Clarion Hotel. $7 per person. No reservations needed.

1 tuesday

World AIDS Day

Light-Up Midtown - Stores and businesses in Midtown will be lit up with magic this holiday season. Be sure to shop for Christmas in Midtown!

3 thursday

The rit*u*al, a design/art exhibit featuring fifty of the region's top artists and designers. 1800 11th at R Street. A benefit for the Sacramento AIDS Foundation will feature the band **Mumbo Gumbo.** 8 p.m. on December 10 Admission is $12.50. Call 455-0654 for more details.

Dec. 3 - 17

Designer's Home Tour, 7 magnificent homes. Tickets available at Porta Bella, 3330 Folsom Blvd. $12 advance, $15 door. Call 448-4659 for details.

"Women's Night at CARES," an evening addressing specific issues/concerns for Women with HIV infection. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Call 443-3299 for more info.

4 friday

MCC Christmas Craft Faire, at MCC Church 34th and Broadway. Call 454-4762 for more info about the faire and the concurrent AIDS Vigil.

Dec. 4, 5, & 6

5 saturday

Sacramento Lesbians Creating Change and **Lambda** present an **Arts and Crafts Fair** at the YWCA, 17th and L Street. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

6 sunday

Dykes Out Together meeting. Women who like to do outdoor and indoor activities together. Call Diana at 487-3124 for more information.

California International Marathon, from Folsom to the State Capitol. For more details call 983-4622.

2nd Annual Holiday Shopping Extravaganza. Jewelry, folk art, fine art and food. Multi-talented local artists showing and selling their work at Barbetta's Beads, 1004 24th Street. Call 443-4959 for details.

10 thursday

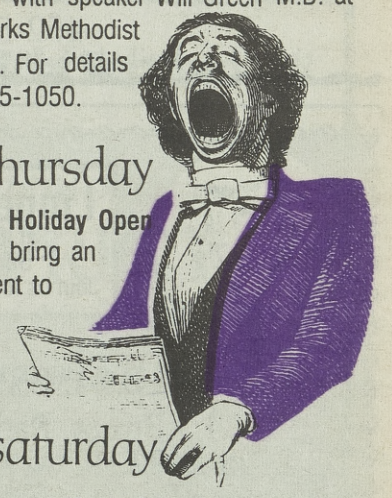
SAGA IV Skate Party, at Foothill Skate Inn, 4700 Auburn Blvd. $5. For more info call Tom at 635-1535.

12 saturday

Sacramento Women's Chorus presents **"Songs of Peace"** at St. Pauls Methodist Church in Vacaville on Saturday 8 p.m. and at Trinity Presbyterian Church in West Sacramento on Sunday at 3 p.m. $5, children are free. For tickets call 442-0185.

15 tuesday

PFLAG with speaker Will Green M.D. at St. Marks Methodist Church. For details call 665-1050.



17 thursday

CARES Holiday Open House, bring an ornament to 2710 Capitol Ave.

19 saturday

Sacramento Men's Chorus present their holiday concert titled **"Winter Dreams"** at the First United Methodist Church, 21st and J Streets. Tickets available at the Gifted Gardener, 2122 J Street.

Dec. 19 & 20

Gay Rodeo in Phoenix
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July 17-24, $1495

Horsepacking in Banff, Canada
August 6-14, $1295

Gay Movies Galore at Tower Theater

by **Chris Narloch**

Sacramento appears finally to be on the map as a major arena for gay cinema, due mainly to the efforts of two gay-friendly local theaters.

Hot on the heels of the phenomenally successful gay and lesbian film festival in October at the Crest, the Tower Theater is running a series of moves aimed at gays every weekend through December.

Night owls should have a field day with the Tower program, which features four eclectic full-length features,

A scene from Claire of the Moon.

each playing two consecutive weekends at midnight. All the movies will be Sacramento premieres, with the exception of Sandra Bernhard's "Without You I'm Nothing," brought back by popular demand.

First up in Todd Haynes' "Poison" (Nov. 13 & 14), an award-winning three-part film based loosely on the works of acclaimed writer Jean Genet. The film is nothing if not audacious as it balance three distinct tales of lust, punishment and homophobia. The film making is strikingly different in each of its three stories, and both the title and the movie's themes succeed wonderfully as metaphors for homophobia past and present.

Personally, I can't wait to see "Pepi, Luci, Bom," the debut flick from that bad boy of Spanish cinema, Pedro Almodovar, the director of such hot hits as "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown" and "Tie Me Up, Tie Me Down."

Described as a comic shockfest, the film details the misadventures of Pepi (the great Carmen Maura, star of "Women of the Verge...") and her friends in modern Spain. The movie plays Nov. 20, 21, 27 & 28.

Back to delight and offend, Madonna's former girl-toy, Sandra Bernhard, offers the film version of her off-Broadway show. In "Without You I'm Nothing," Bernhard takes aim at celebrity, fashion and pop culture in general. Showing the first two weekends in December (4, 5, 11 & 12).

Just in time for Christmas, "The Hours and Times," a recent hit at the San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, concludes the series December 18, 19, 25 & 26. The film chronicles a weekend in the relationship of John Lennon and Brian Epstein, the Beatles producer who had a romantic fixation with Lennon. Set in Barcelona, the story is billed as a haunting fantasy of what might have developed between the two men on holiday in a Spanish hotel.

Go. Enjoy. Support gay movies in Sacramento!

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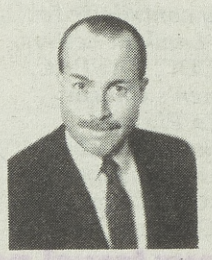

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From Erotica to Holiday Classics Reviewed

by **Bill Peterson**

MADONNA EROTICA

Madonna - Erotica

For all her preening and posing as a worldly hussy, some things about Madonna remain incredible naive.

Her much hyped accompaniment to THE BOOK, seems to have been made for the simplistic American Bandstand rating system - "Dick, its got a good beat and I can dance to it." But here in the 90s we're a much more sophisticated bunch, right? We want more than just a good sound. We want some genuine emotion, and on "Erotica" we aren't presented with a great quantity.

But Madonna's also good for shock value, right? Ha! Once you close the brushed aluminum book cover, the CD only has one laughable attempt to raise your eyebrows -- "Where Live Begins" -- Lady Madonna's ode to oral sex and a retread of "Justify My Love" with a mild S & M bent.

"Erotica" is a disappointing outing from the queen of pop culture, with pedestrian lyrics dragging down catchy, but workman-like tunes. As she sings, "When you know the notes to sing/ You can sing most anything" you can't help but agree. **Worth $8.89**

Neneh Cherry Homebrew

So, you're going to pass on the Madonna CD, but you still want to hear something sassy with that ever-important good beat? Well here, try this one out.

Her first album was a bouncy street smart pop-rap outing and this, three years later, is less bouncy but just as intelligent and catchy. With stripped down arrangements melding rock, jazz and hip-hop and some well-chosen samples (The O'Jays, Juicy and Steppenwolf) the ten songs here are heartfelt pleas for peace, in the cities and within one's self. "Moneylove and gold payments/ We spend our lives thinking/ They are saviors/ Money talks but love is for real."

Luckily, Cherry doesn't get overtly preachy, even when Michael Stipe of R.E.M. guests on the pro sex-ed tune "Trout." **Worth $12.27**

Prince

"My name is Prince and I am funky. My name is Prince the one and only." So opens the latest album by...yeah, Prince.

After the commercial rebound of last year's "Diamonds and Pearls" and the highly publicized multi-million dollar deal with Warner Brothers, the little guy confounds once again with a sprawling sixteen song album which is supposed to be a concept album -- a rock opera.

Perhaps when the videos are released the story line will be stronger (though judging from the muddled "Graffiti Bridge," perhaps not), but viewed as an album rather than something loftier, this set has something for everyone. From the paisley patented workouts of "Continental" and "The Max" to the exquisite lounge jazz of "Damn U," the James Brown-esque "Sexy MF" to the reggae-tinged "Blue Light." Why, there's even a stab at techno with "I Wanna Melt With U": "We're gonna shake and shake and shake/ Until we're both deranged with endorphins/ This is the ultimate rave."

As always, Prince pulls off almost each style with equal success, but he's still struggling to incorporate rap into his songs, and the band's rapper Tony M. just doesn't cut it. We've already got the swagger of Prince, we don't need Tony's boring boasts, "Yeah, we're watchin' people scatter 2 the dance floor/ Slammin and shakin their booties/ Screamin yo T. give me more." Worth $13.00

A Very Special Christmas 2

Five years after the first volume, comes this new Yuletide collection featuring a diverse roster of artists -- Tom Petty, Run D.M.C., Debbie Gibson, Randy Travis -- all united to help raise money for the Special Olympics and to spread Christmas cheer. Outstanding among the 19 songs are the cocktail jazz take on "What Child Is This?" by Vanessa Williams, the big band duet on "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" by Cyndi Lauper and Frank Sinatra and the soooo-bluesy "Merry Christmas Baby" by Bonnie Raitt and Charles Brown.

Buy it, the money goes to a good cause, and it sure beats another year of Percy Faith's Christmas favorites!

Worth $11.99

Albums are priced according to their actual worth on a scale from one cent to $15.98, the suggested list price of a new compact disc.

Elton John at the Arco Arena

Yeah, he has been around forever and he has put out some fairly generic stuff in recent years, but wait -- this guy really knows how to put on an energetic and entertaining show!

Playing for nearly two and a half hours on Halloween, Elton proved why he has been successful for so long with songs from the span of his career. His set, which featured the audience favorite "Funeral for a Friend/Love Lies Bleeding" also included "Your Song," "Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me" and "I Don't Wanna Go on with You Like That," songs that kept the enthusiastic audience on its feet for much of the show.

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GALLERY GUIDE!

Not only Big Hair, but Big Art Too!

by **D. Oldham**

Three art enthusiasts have opened an innovative alternative art space, bringing "Big Art" to the Big Hair salon in Midtown.

The gallery's name is not a description of size, but rather a metaphor for the grand style in which the art is displayed.

The new viewing space, which previously housed the art collection of the hair salon's owners, will now host a variety of bi-monthly art exhibits.

The vaulted grey ceiling and subtly textured lavender walls are a departure from the traditional white walls seen in most galleries, an example of the trio's fresh approach to the Sacramento art scene.

"We talked about opening an art gallery for the past five years," says co-owner and art collector Lynda Jolley. "When we saw Rodrico's work, it gave us the push to devote the space to art."

Jolley and her two partners Bob Brawley and artist Eddie Camacho have brought the work of Rodrico Lepe to Sacramento from Mexico to open the first exhibition at Big Art.

Showing with Lepe is Sacramento artist Galelyn Williams, whose delicate assemblage work fits well in the Victorian surroundings.

The exhibit opens with a grand opening reception on Saturday Nov. 14 and will remain on display through December.

Future plans for the gallery include an erotica show, (with the possibility of a clothing optional reception) and an exhibition of work by co-owner Eddie Camacho. The shows will display art not included in other gallery exhibits as well as work that has been censored from mainstream galleries.

Camacho's August show will include "Who's Stuck Carrying the Cross," a large format watercolor that was recently excluded from a group exhibition at Sacramento's Lincoln Plaza Gallery for its controversial content.

The gallery plans include many young artists in its regular exhibition schedule, helping to promote new artists who may have been overlooked by traditional galleries.

Big Hair has been enjoying success in its L Street location since its move there in 1990, and the addition of Big Art to this thriving business will allow the gallery to display work that for-profit galleries cannot afford to include in their exhibition schedules.

Brawley, Camacho and Jolley represent the growing number of business owners who are reviving the Sacramento art community by including art exhibits for their customers. Jolley believes that the gallery space was a natural progression from the art collection that many of the salon's clients have always enjoyed, and the changing exhibitions will create an exciting new environment each time a client visits the salon.

Big Art and Big Hair are located in the heart of Lavender Heights, above the Mercantile Saloon on L Street.

Both Bob Brawley and Eddie Camacho are members of the gay community and together with their energetic partner Lynda Jolley, they have put together an alternative art space that is worthy of community support and respect. So, next time you need a good haircut and a little culture, stop by Big Hair and enjoy some Big Art!

Big Art: Located inside Big Hair at 1928 L Street.
Open Tuesday through Friday, Noon to 4 p.m.
Opening reception Saturday, Nov. 14, 6 - 8 p.m.
For information: 446-2740.

Lynda Jolley with partners Bob Brawley and Eddie Camacho.

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The MENS Session is an educational program of the Sacramento AIDS Foundation

New Year's Eve to be the Party of the Year

Four community organizations are joining forces to "Bring in 93 With Family" by sponsoring a New Year's Eve party at the Tuesday Club Ballroom.

The latest ISSUE along with Sacramento Lesbians Creating Change, the River City Democratic Club and the Lambda Community Center have been working on the event since June, with hopes of filling the ballroom with 350 gays, lesbians and friends of the gay community.

Dance music and entertainment will be provided by Second Wind, a two-woman band from Los Angeles that sounds like a band of five, with a play list that ranges from country to top 40 and everything in between.

Rita Harrington and Pattie Weber make up Second Wind and have played together for more than 10 years. The musicians met in 1980 at an audition for an "all girl band" and slowly but surely the two fell in love. The relationship continued and so did their musical career together until "dyke drama" occured.

After a year of healing, the women realized how much they missed the musical magic between them, and feeling a "Second Wind" musically and personally, the new band was formed. With a new sound, a new friendship and a promising future, Pattie and Rita decided in 1986 Second Wind would direct their talents towards the lesbian/gay community.

Portrait photography by Brian Ashby will be available at the event to capture party-goers in thier finest attire for only $15. The party begins at 9 p.m. and ends at 1 a.m. Jan. 1, 1993. There will be a no-host bar and light hors d'oeuvres by Dorman's Catering.

Rita Harrington and Patti Weber of Second Wind.

Tickets for the Dec. 31 party are $25 per person and are available at the latest ISSUE office, 709 28th Street, and the Lambda Community Center, 1931 L Street. Visa and MasterCard are accepted at Lambda.

The event is expected to sell-out so get your tickets early. Make sure you're there to celebrate the new year and "Bring in 93 with Family!"

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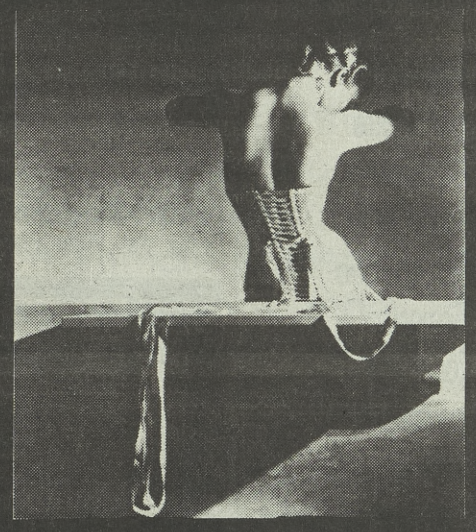

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It's So Weird to Support a Winner

by **Stacy Selmants**

After months of wearily watching political sniper fire on television, it's over, and I have to confess that this political junkie is suffering from a teensy bit of post-election withdrawal.

To get my daily fix of whining and finger pointing I may have to start watching Sally Jesse Raphael ("Moms who say they're still virgins--coming up next!") or if I'm really desperate, Love Connection.

For months I proudly drove around town with my "Friends Don't Let Friends Vote Republican" bumper sticker, which annoyed the hell out of my Republican mother --the suburban guerilla-- who allegedly wrote in Joe Montana for President on her absentee ballot because even SHE couldn't bring herself to vote for Bush. Mom's used to voting for old, rich balding guys, and Clinton had FAR TOO MANY Good Hair Days to get her vote.

So, yeah, we're happy, we're smug, we're absolutely orgasmic little Demos at our house. Our two babes won their races for the U.S. Senate, Clinton's made a bunch of nifty promises (gays in the military, health care reform) that we hope he'll keep, and Bush went snivelling off into the sunset with nothing more planned than to read "Cat in the Hat" to his grandkids a couple of thousand times. If I could just do something about my ever-expanding thighs, I'd be completely, utterly content.

And while I disagree with the publisher's wishful contention that Hillary likes babes ("A Lipstick Lesbian Moves Into the White House-- Film At 11") we at least know that both Clinton and Hillary are queer-friendly. It'll be a nice change from the past two administrations, where the only openly gay folks allowed in were the hairdressers. ("Nancy, Mr. Steve is on line 2.")

This is the fifth national election I've voted in, and the first one where my candidate actually won. Okay, in my first election in 1976 I DID vote for Gerald Ford. But after living through Watergate as an impressionable teen, I figured Ford was too fundamentally stupid to do anything dishonest. It may a hard adjustment-- this new idea of not being able to hate your President.

So we had an eclectic gathering of selected, politically aware members of the "Just Say 'Maybe' Club" over to celebrate and to watch the returns. It was a diverse group: one veteran, one former draft protester, a former Capitol staffer, a couple of our favorite heterosexuals, a renegade cartoonist, and us. And between scarfing down spaghetti, shooting rubber darts at the t.v whenever a vision of Bush appeared, and giggling over the cartoonist's demented commentaries, we began to realize that all the candidates on our side were winning, and winning BIG.

And by the middle of the evening, when even the math-impaired could see who was going to win, and Clinton appeared with a tired, shit-eating grin on his face we began to celebrate in earnest. We began to envision the changing of the guard, a new chance for many of us who are tired of being ignored.

And being true "Just Say 'Maybe' Club" members, we even broke out a little contraband in celebration. And to honor Bill Clinton, our new President, some of us, yes some of us, even inhaled.

LeatherFest 92 Wears 'Em Out

by **Mike Kelly**

Sacramento's fourth annual LeatherFest Weekend started with a bang but ended with a whimper

The October festivity always begins with the Mr. Wreck Room Contest, where the butch winner this year was 48 year old local leatherman Jim Webster.

The nearly two-hour-long contest was hosted by San Francisco's former Mr. Cheeks & Chaps, St. Clair Adams, and six Sacramento Leather Association (SLA) members as judges.

In the stage fantasy, Wes Patterson showed the crowd what pleasures he would enjoy at home if his date didn't show up on time. The "talent" portion of the show involved each of the three contestants deciding the best thing to do with a condom, lubricant and a cucumber.

At Saturday afternoon's Leather Arts and Crafts Show at Joseph's Town and Country, some big bucks changes hands for unique items of clothing, jewelry, and paraphernalia, while many visitors just traded admiring stares at the men modeling studded leather jockstraps and tight-fitting harnesses. Orders were being taken for custom-made chaps and vests by both local and Bay Area vendors.

The evening Leather Fantasy show at Joseph's included six electrifying displays of bondage, discipline, and voyeurism.

Kim Wallace ended the evening's festivities by belting out a couple of her favorite songs with the other entertainers dancing along to her rhythms.

The only SLA activity planned for Sunday was the Full Moon Contest, but it didn't happen. The crowd was apparently all partied out, because no one dared to "shoot the moon" in this usually thrilling bare-ass competition.

The next SLA event is the Mr. Sacramento Valley Leather Contest, Nov. 21 at Joseph's Town and Country, 2062 Auburn Blvd. with the contest beginning at 9 p.m.

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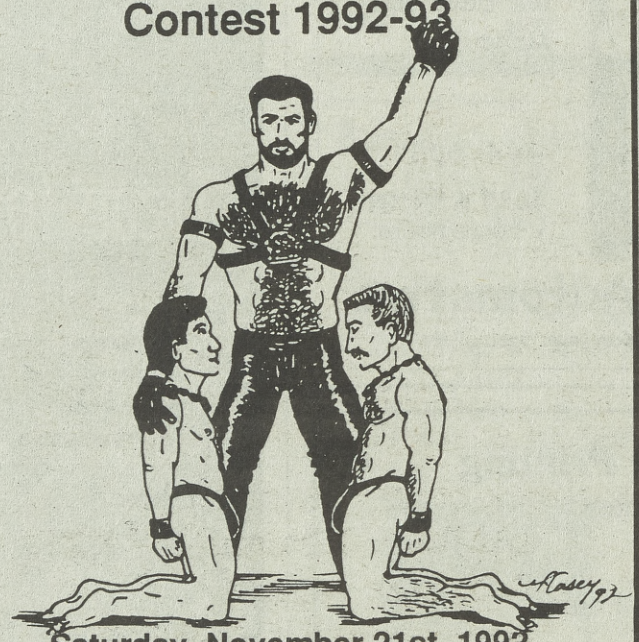

Saturday, November 21st, 1992

Doors Open at 8:00pm, Contest at 9:00pm

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A Fabulous Review of Ethan Green's

Mostly Unfabulous Social Life

by **Dale Zeitler**

Remember how your hair deliberately tries to make you look stupid? Or how you have to feign enthusiasm every year when folks give you weird and useless shit at Christmas? Or how you've always longed to shove a high-voltage electrode up Jesse Helms' butt?

Sure you do.

Well gang, what you need to do then, is go right out and buy a copy of cartoonist Eric Orner's new book "The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green" ($8.95 - St. Martin's Press).

Ethan is, of course, the unfortunate star of Orner's truly hilarious gay comic strip (seen in the latest ISSUE), and along with fellow characters Bucky, Liza and Beth, the especially fabulous Hat Sisters and the mysterious Madame Zolna, he endures such traumas as coming out to his mother, being blackmailed by Kitty Kelley, attending his high school reunion, and throwing the ball "like a girl" while everyone is watching. Add to this the outrageous adventures of the Hat Sisters (yes, they really do jam an electrode up Jesse Helms' ass), the "Ethan Green Guide to Fabulousness Chart," the exciting "Astronaut Mission of Love," and Orner's quirky, detailed artwork, and you've got a genuinely funny and thoughtful collection of cartoons about the gay life.

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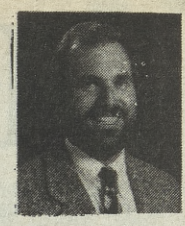
FUCK YOU AND THE HORSE YOU RODE IN ON..

He endures such traumas as throwing the ball "like a girl"

Oh yeah – "The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green" would also make a much more appreciated Christmas gift than say, one of those nonbiodegradable loaf-cake things with the weird, iridescent fruit chunks. Buy it



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Won't you join us in hope ? We invite you to make a contribution to the fight against AIDS by hanging an ornament on the Fifth Annual Tree of Hope. In the last year alone, we reached over thirteen thousand gay/bisexual men and youth through one-on-one safer sex interventions. Your donation, made to memorialize a fallen companion or honor a dedicated fighter, will make it possible for us to maintain our current scope of work in the face of funding cuts and tighter economic times. Let us together look towards a future of hope. Thank you for your contribution and your commitment to that future.

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RUMOR HAS IT

I, for one, just can't stop grinning. Like zillions of you, I have actually voted (for once) for a presidential candidate who won! And two senators! And an assemblyman! Who ever thought we'd see the day the liberal Democratic agenda was revived? Hot damn! Now, let's get on with the really important stuff...gossiping!

Local boy, **Tom Hanks**, is starring in a new movie about AIDS and homophobia. The film, due to open in 1993, is called **"Philadelphia."**

Rick Oldham, manager of Bankers Mortgage, was recently promoted to AVP. Does that make him Assistant Vice President or A Very Pierced mortgage banker? When asked about the significance of his newly pierced nipple, Rick responded, "I was running out of places to put jewelry."

Wham, that cool and funky hair salon/boutique is celebrating their first anniversary in November, too. Judging by

Michael, Ralph and Dan at the Men's Chorus bash.

Barb's girth, the **Wham** family is due to be expanded by one any time now. So stop in and buy a sweatshirt or a cool new watch and celebrate our family values, why don't you?

The whole **Men's Chorus Family** was at the **Hellfire Masquerade Ball** on Halloween night dancing up a storm to old disco tunes. Some of the costumes were exceptionally bizzare including **Michael Moore** as a jumbo sized Tinkerbell, **Nancy Burns** as the bird-attack victim in "The Birds," and **George Foxx** as a woman badly in need of a hair-do. **Mike Tentis** won five well drinks at the **Mercantile** for impersonating a cow. Two nerds, a Marilyn Monroe, a mouse and a rabbit won lovely parting gifts. All in all, the night was a lot of fun.

Faces was sure hopping on Halloween. The men of **Delta Lambda Phi -Davis** chapter, sure did a great decorating job on the bar while patrons decorated themselves for the yearly costume contest. The big $100 winners were **Larry Claybough, Mark Christensen, Billie Buturice** and **Clay Gibson**. Other fabulous costumes were worn by **Don Frazier, Mark Scheib, Pamela McCowan and Thomas Kuoha.**

Camping it up at Faces Halloween Party.

So there's this vicious little rumor going around town that two of our gay community's prominent realtors, **Jayne Rountree** and **Jake Steuble**, own the **Sacramento AIDS Foundation** building and are making a huge profit from the SAF by increasing their rent. In fact, there is no truth to the story at all. **Jayne** and **Jake** have nothing to do with the building. You've got to wonder who invents this stuff. And why target **Jake** and **Jayne**, two people dedicated to fund-raising and community involvement? My motto is, if you're going to make up nasty stories they should at least be about nasty people. Don't you think?

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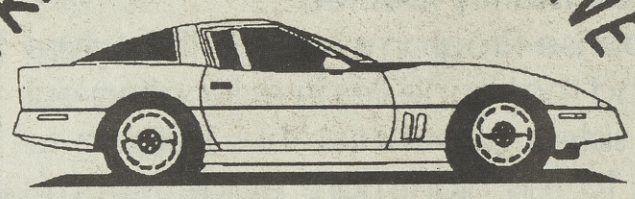

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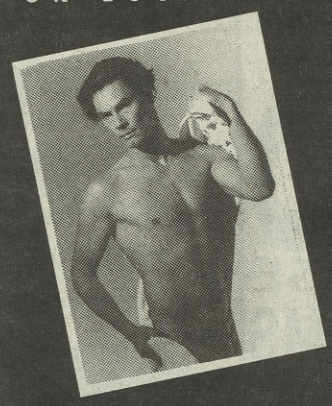

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Congratulations to **Linda Birner** and staff of **Mom Guess What Newspaper** for 15 years of success. The Nov. 15 edition is the anniversary issue, so pick up a copy and remember how far we've come.

On the way home from viewing the Quilt in Washington D.C., a local queer writer and a local queer photographer sat next to **Karen Massey**, television news reporter for **Channel 10**. It seems Karen inadvertantly revealed that her male cat is having an ongoing affair with another male cat in the neighborhood. The Lambda Center board is considering instituting a support group for gay cats. (PFLACK? Scratch-Up? Quitty Nation? Radical Felines?) No wonder Karen is so supportive of our causes!

One of the biggest events of the week at the **March on Washington** in 1987 was **The Wedding**, held the day before the march. Over 2,000 gay and lesbian couples were married surrounded by their friends and well-wishers. Happily, **Rev. Troy Perry**, founder of **Metropolitan Community Church**, plans to lead another ceremony next April 24, the day before the next March on Washington. For information, contact the March on Washington at 202/628-0493.

And here at home, we can begin registering our domestic partnerships at City Hall (room 303) on Monday, Nov. 16. **RCDC and the Sacramento Diversity Task Force** are holding a party to celebrate the ordinance -- and the newly registered couples -- at **Ambrose Heath**, 924 J Street, from 6 to 9 p.m. on the 16th.

Sacramento photographer **Brian Ashby** is showing a piece in the **Association of Sacramento Advertising Photographers** "Red Between the Lines." Brian's photo (entitled "Red Between the Lies") of two embracing nude men, overlaid with pages torn from the bible is a standout! The show, at **Viewpoint Gallery** 57th & H, will be on display through Nov. 26.

Elton John recently announced his plan to donate a portion of the profits from all future singles released in the United States to AIDS organizations. And speaking of music, how about that **Garth Brooks**? His new album's first song "We Shall Be Free" contains the lines, "When we're free to love anyone we choose, then we shall be free." **Garth** has said in interviews that the song is about the choices of partners people, including gays and interracial couples, make.

When making your vacation plans, don't forget the **Gay Games** are coming up in New York in 1994. Plans are well underway and the big bucks are rolling in. Rumor has it that ice hockey and figure skating have been added to the competition. I can see the dykes in hockey masks and queens in tutus already! In the running for the 1998 locale are Houston, Atlanta, Amsterdam, Sydney, and Manchester (England).

Down San Joaquin way, our favorite Dairy Queen, **Dennis**, is off the open market again, with his tentative reconciliation with **Clay**. Those in the know say the reunion is likely to last at least 15 minutes. I guess those Stockton boys like breakin' up and makin' up!

World famous graphic designer **Michael J. Patterson** has returned from a recent trip to England, Belgium, and Spain. After a few weeks of rest, he promises to begin his anxiously awaited photo tour, a marathon event covering three countries in 40 rolls of film.

Well, ya'll its been a fabulous month, and for once you should have no trouble thinking of things to give thanks for at the annual turkey feed! Celebrate and be glad!

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FOUNDATION
continued from page 8

"It's all part of the business. And I have friends who suffered greater cuts, so I feel lucky, in a sense."

The Foundation has suffered, in some respects, by some recent upheavals which occurred during the period prior to McNeill's arrival, while Janel Rogers was Executive Director of the Foundation. Many staff members left due to budget cuts, or because they felt they could not exist under Rogers leadership, which was termed by several, as "military row".

Joe Chase, who saw his previous position as Director of Education and Prevention Programs cut back due to new budgeting priorities expresses vocal bitterness about his tenure from 1988-92 with the Foundation.

"It's always difficult to evolve from a volunteer to a professional organization. But by the time I left there was such hostility, especially between the volunteers and the staff. They just expected the volunteers to do too much."

"It was like a dysfunctional family," Chase explained. "And the Board was TOTALLY dysfunctional. In the over three years that I worked there, not once did any Board member interview me or anybody else about how our programs were going. There was always such a tug-of-war politically, to get any changes accomplished."

When asked about the multiple vacancies on the Foundation Board, the AIDS Foundation's Beth Coleman, offered an explanation, "No, we don't have a large number of vacancies. It's just ongoing organizational renewal. Change is healthy."

McNeill added that the Foundation's Executive Committee has been meeting regularly in efforts to fill the three vacancies on the Board. "We have a good core group of 12 people, and we are making renewed efforts to fill the other positions."

McNeill expressed special enthusiasm for an upcoming event that he hopes will begin to address his goal of heightening public understanding about AIDS/HIV -- which is to strongly promote World AIDS Awareness Day on December 1.

The coalition of local organizations that sponsored the AIDS Walk, including: the Foundation, the Lambda Center, Women's Civic Improvement Center, Center for AIDS Related Emergency Services (CARES), and El Hogar will also be sponsoring the "1% For AIDS Day". This event will coincide with World Awareness Day on Dec. 1, and will ask local businesses to donate 1% of the day's proceeds to AIDS service organizations.

"We have two educational goals," McNeill explained. "One is to promote public awareness about AIDS, and show how it's relevant to everyone's lives. And the other goal is to aggressively provide the opportunity for people in all communities to contribute either time or money to AIDS services."

Besides shedding past problems, and assuming the sometimes mundane duties of an administrator, McNeill expresses a real willingness to become a political player, in efforts to increase funding for AIDS at both the state and federal level.

"We are in the process of working both singly and with coalitions to advocate for increases in funding," McNeill said. "We want to become better at being true advocates for people with AIDS."

Help Organize AIDS Walk 93

Your efforts will help local people with AIDS. Volunteer! Call Beth at 448-2437

SACRAMENTO AIDS FOUNDATION

DOMESTIC
continued from page 5

Ambrose Heath, 924 J Street.

The $5 donation at the door will help defray the expenses generated for the Domestic Partners Ordinance by the Family Diversity Task Force, which guided Mayor Rudin in her push to get the proposal enacted into law before she leaves office on Nov. 24.

A number of local and state politicians should be there to congratulate the first registrants and to honor the hard work it took for the mayor's idea to materialize.

A special "wedding cake" will crown the celebration.

BILLBOARDS
continued from page 11

that are not strictly gay, but where a diverse cross-section of people will see them.

"In Bill Clinton's [presidential] acceptance speech," McDermott said, "he said that we need to strengthen the country by recognizing and celebrating our diversity. Our aim is visibility, and our ultimate goal is for society to accept ALL of our families." She also noted that in the future, GLAAD plans to represent other variations of non-traditional families, including families with gay male, senior, and bisexual couples.

The project has received tremendous media exposure on radio and wire services, talk shows, and the press. This election year, gays and lesbians are indeed more visible than ever, a fact illustrated by the relentlessness with which the right wing has attacked them. Earlier this year, in his doomed re-election campaign, President George Bush went on the record as saying he did not believe gay and lesbian parents are normal.

Looking toward the future, McDermott said, "We as a community are making changes, gradually changing people's minds. The far-right has basically voiced its social standing. My hope is that as we progress, it will no longer be acceptable to bash gays and lesbians and their families."

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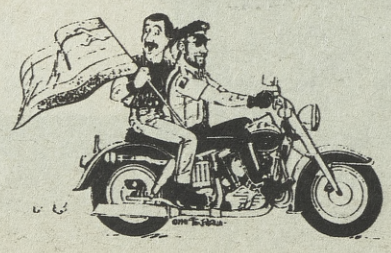

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